

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 AGR-20 SWF-02 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /164 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5696

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS UNUN 3445

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, HO, SWEL

SUBJ: HONDURAN FONMIN BATRES' UN NEWS CONFERENCE

REF: USUN 3410

1. HONDURAN FONMIN BATRES OPENED HIS SEPT 26 NEWS CONFERENCE AT UN WITH A NOTE OF THANKS TO WORLD FOR SUPPLYING RELIEF AID AND SEEKING HELP FROM INFORMATION MEDIA TO PUBLICIZE INCREASING NEEDS. HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS ON EXTENT OF LOSSES BUT DAMAGE IS IMMENSE. HE SAID EARLY PROBLEMS OF DISTRIBUTION ARE BEING CLEARED UP AND RELIEF IS GETTING THROUGH.

2. ASKED ABOUT NY TIMES STROY QUESTIONING HONDURAN STATISTICS, HE SAID NO ONE WOULD BE HAPPIER THAN HE IF LOWER FIGURES PROVE MORE ACCURATE. HE CAUTIONED THAT LARGE PARTS OF COUNTRY ARE STILL UNDER WATER AND IT IS JUST IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ACCURATE ESTIMATES AT THIS TIME. HE SAID THE HONDURAN BANANA CROP HAS BEEN RUINED AND THIS IS GREAT LOSS, AS BANANAS MAKE UP 60 PERCENT OF HONDURAN EXPORTS.

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3. WHEN ASKED A NUMBER OF HOSTILE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, THE FONMIN DENIED THAT ANY OF THE RELIEF FUNDS WOULD GO TO HELPING THESE COMPANIES MAKE UP THEIR LOSSES. HE SAID THERE IS A PROBLEM BECAUSE UNDER EXISTING CONTRACTS, THE MNC'S CAN SUSPEND ALL CONTRACTS IN AREAS WHERE BANANA CROPS ARE RUINED. THIS WOULD LEAVE MANY MORE PEOPLE WITHOUT MEANS OF SUPPORT AND SO NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW UNDER WAY TO REACH SOME COMPROMISE.

4. WHEN ASKED IF ANY OIL NATIONS ARE COMING TO HONDURAS' AID, HE SAID VENEZUELA HAD BEEN HELPING FROM THE START.

5. AMBASSADOR TO UN MARTINEZ SAID SOME OF THE DAMAGE COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED WITH BETTER FLOOD PROTECTION, BUT THE KIND OF FLOOD PROTECTION NEEDED IS TOO GREAT FOR HONDURAS TO HANDLE. SCALI

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Message Attributes

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